

Congress of the United States

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Washington, DC 20515

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May 23, 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Powell:

As Members of the Nebraska Congressional Delegation, we write to encourage the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to carefully review Qwest's application to become a long distance provider in the State of Nebraska. We ask the FCC to work on behalf of our state to increase telecommunications competition in Nebraska as quickly as possible.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 was designed to promote competition in all segments of the telecommunications industry, including long-distance. Nebraska businesses and residential customers deserve the benefits that come from increased competition -- better service, more options, and lower prices. Qwest's application for long-distance presents an opportunity to increase consumers' choices and the options for local and long-distance services in Nebraska.

Telecommunications is important to the economic vitality of our state. Nebraskans need the ability to access complete bundles of state-of-the art network services including long-distance service and data network security from a single provider. Being a rural state, facing unique communication needs, Nebraska depends on today's telecommunications network not only for jobs, but also for the enhancement of its business environment.

We commend the Nebraska Public Service Commission for their diligent work on this complex issue. Through their efforts, procedures are in place to ensure that Qwest's local phone service market is open to competition. We are pleased with the joint efforts between Qwest, the public service commissions in the Qwest region, and the competitive local exchange carriers. Their continued cooperation demonstrates operating support systems are working properly to allow competitors access to Qwest networks.

As our economy recovers from its recent slowdown, it is imperative that the competitive marketplace be allowed to work to the fullest extent, without delay. We have every confidence that the FCC will provide a timely review of Qwest's application.


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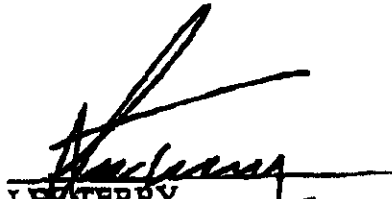
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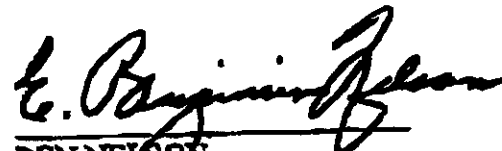
Thank you for your leadership and commitment to service.


Sincerely,


DOUG BEREUTER
Member of Congress


CHUCK HAGEL
United States Senate


LEE TERRY
Member of Congress


BEN NELSON
United States Senate


TOM OSBORNE
Member of Congress